

To W. L. Garrison.

Covington, La. Aug 14, 54

Dear Friend:

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I know you will pardon me for troubling you with this epistle, or I should not send it. So without wasting time I will state what I have to.

You will remember, that some time ago, I informed you, that a young Anti-Slavery Artist out here, was engaged on a Panorama of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." It has been finished now some six months, and is a very fine production, so received, by all who have seen it, both friends & foes. It is in entire harmony with the spirit of the work, and believed by Anti-Slavery men who have seen it, well calculated to do a good work in the cause of the slave. Mr. Hays, the artist, spent some 18 months in painting it, and I assisted him with several hundred dollars, nearly my all is in it. After a few months travel, Mr. Hays abandoned it in despair, and it now stands idle. I do not feel willing to let it die thus. I should like to get something out of it, and at the same time do good, for I know it has a powerful anti-Slavery influence. To judge by the howlings it produces in the ranks of pro-Slavery, its capacity for good must be great. I have never seen a more decided influence produced on the minds of children, than this painting produces, when exhibited to them. At an evening one day remarked, at the close of an exhibition, "we would make abolitionists out of the whole of them." But for the point, we are poor, and cannot travel with it, unless it does something for us.

I speak frankly, but our motives are good, but we cannot make it pay in pro-slavery regions. In those regions where a reasonable share of Anti Slavery exists, we have come well, sustained our pockets, and awakened a feeling that must be good. But such places are too remotely situated out west, and our funds become exhausted in going from point to point, and we have found it impossible to get people out, so as to sustain ourselves, in a purely antagonistical place. You know we have to fine crown the prejudice, even among our friends, when unknown, that we are mere peddlers of Uncle Tom, for money, like too many have been. We must then convince the people we have a good printing. We have done this, wherever we have been. What I now wish, is to get the work into a region where the anti-slavery sentiment is not so scattered, have the friends see it, where I know we can have their influence, and the influence of an Anti-Slavery press to aid us. This will be every thing to us. In some region, we have enough of this feeling in every locality, to cause us to be well sustained. We can then return west, with our interest awakened ahead of us much to our profit. You will see then, my object in this long epistle, is merely to get your opinion, and if possible encouragement, in relation to coming to New England. I know we have a good work, though not perfect, one which always creates a deep interest in the subject it illustrates, and I cannot fail in being useful. I hope you understand me. I only ask your opinion in the matter, as you cannot but know, that if we get the influence

of such men as you, Freely, Parker, Phillips,
and a host I could mention, it could not fail
to be of vast service to us. We have received the
countenance of such men as Colfax & Leeming
of our own state, & found it of much service.
Mankind are led by great names, and if such men
as I have mentioned, could see our work, &
give it their sanction, thousands would be
swayed thereby. I send you a few of the
opinions of the public of us, that you can judge.
As before said, such opinions here, are so much
scattered, to make it pay, so far, to us, I have
been frank & candid, & hope you will be
so with me, as well as pardon this intrusion
on your time. The pecuniary success of the
printing is every thing to me at present,
but I care its prosperity on more elevated
grounds, viz: the cause of the crushed slave.
Had I not cared for this, since my so-
journ west, I need not now care for the
success of this Panorama. But enough, "if
their fruits ye shall know them", and if this,
I am willing, my abolition shall be judged.
I could say much, as to our cause in this
region, how our professed anti-slavery folks
are crying, "Mucci! Mucci! Akashka" &c, but
assist, and corroborate, saying, for our such
hostility to slavery as this.

I am very Respect &c,

L. Lamborn

P.S. I send you 2^d for the Liberator;

The Ill. Weekly Palladium" at Elgin speaks thus.
"Way's Panorama

"This new & splendid panorama of Uncle Tom's Cabin," which is exhibiting at Shermans Hall, in this City, is one which really claims the attention of those who have a taste for artistic skill & beauty, or for the awakening of noble sentiments & vivid heart stirring impulses. Illustrating as it does successfully, that immortal sketch of Mrs. Stowe, it forms one of the most thrilling exhibitions imaginable. A person witnessing it, feels as though he was passing through those touching scenes represented, while he recognises at a glance the several characters which are made to figure in that great drama of Southern life.

There are few circumstances for relaxation, which are at the same time so interesting & instructive as this; and it would be wise in our citizens, to improve this time, to the exclusion of those which are calculated only to amuse for the moment, and leave the intellect & the heart without any improvement." The Editor is an Abolitionist without any "huts."

Rev. Mr. Reid of M. says, along with much that is good: "Its crowning excellence, however, is the moral teaching it contains, appealing, as it does, to every noble & generous impulse of our better nature in behalf of the crown trodden and oppressed."

Mr. Biers, of our own town, says, in a long communication, "It was not painted to astonish sight-seers, but to gratify pure taste."

Let this suffice, as this will give you an idea.

J. L.